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An English translation of

**LETTRE DE KHALIL PACHA  
A MULAY ZIDAN**

Submitted by

Chantal De La Veronne

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Translated by BRIAN A. SMITH, D.C.

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Note: The original article, which begins on page 5, used footnotes. These have been changed into endnotes in this translation.

Letter from Khalil Pasha to Mûlay Zidân

Constantinople, 2 December 1613

December, 2, 1613.

Letter from Vice Halil Baxâ,(1) Captain of the Sea, to Muley Seidân, King of Fez and Morocco, written in Constantinople, on December 2, 1613.

Lord of honor, who are great from generation to generation, Lord of the honored nation, root of the tree of science, honor of the highest nation, because you are the guardian of God, governor of Fez and Morocco,(2) sir Seydân, may God maintain your life and greatness until the end of the world.

This health we give to Your Highness according to what she deserves and is appropriate for our friendship that is sincere and as clear as the sun, and sending this letter of friendship to Your Highness, what your friend of heart and heart makes you know, is this.

As by the grace of God, the greatness of our emperor, whom God guards, has now made my friend again, who continually desires your greatness, captain baxâ, and therefore, with the grace and help of God, spring next, I'll go to sea out of here with the royal army.(3) God who is incomparable, let it be with good fortune and that we bolvamos with happiness.

And then later, Vra Highness will know how before now we sent another letter of friendship to Vra Highness, advising that Vra Highness should go here to the Court of our emperor (which is the help of the kings and princes, and the repair of the honored emperors) a faithful ambassador of yours with a royal letter and some strange things present to make us renew and continue our friendship, and may this your ambassador be received and dispatched with the greatest honor in the world.

But not having had any response to the letter of friendship, I don't know why, and doubting that by any chance you have not survived it in any way, I excuse you. But what is convenient to the memory of your honored parents and grandparents and to the others, your most high predecessors, will also do Vra Altezza, sending an ambassador to this Court so that the thread of our friendship is not cut. And starting from here a confidant person of the lords, states and governors, who have made friends with our emperor(4) through me, and in everything are friends of His Majesty, I wanted to embed this letter with this faithful name,(5) so that he has a response from the other who he sent Vra Alteza. And we hope from Your Highness that, in living this, you will embed a faithful name as an ambassador in time that I, your faithful friend, will be out with the royal army so that, while bearing Constantinople with the grace of God, I can endeavor to do him all the honor. that was promised in the other letter.

And I have also warned the lords and governors of Hederlanda(6) who are friends of the great emperor and ours, that in whatever thing you have need of them, you should notify

Their Highnesses, that they will not fail to go to Vra Highness in what is offered for the friendship they have with us.

The reason that moves me to write this letter is none other than to see that you are of our fee, and for this reason it is convenient that you be a friend of our emperor, like the other lords and princes who have friendship with us.

And with this peace and love, I pray to God that the highest nation of Your Highness be multiplied.(7)

The first Halil, vizier and captain.

*Biblioteca Nacional de Madrid. -Manuscrites n° 2348, fol. 99 r° - 100 r° - Traduction espagnole.*

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#### ENDNOTES

- (1) Kais'arîyeli Khalîl Pasha was grand vizier under the Ottoman sultans Ah'med I and Murâd IV. In 1608 he was captain of the sea; replaced in 1611, he became so again in 1613. He sought to form a confederation against Spain with Holland and Morocco, but this project was unsuccessful.
- (2) The Arabic (or Turkish) text had the terms of *h'âkim* and *âmîr*; for the Porte, the sharif was not a sovereign, and the tone of this letter indicates that Khalîl Pasha considered the Sa'diens as equals.
- (3) Allusion to the Turkish expedition against Malta and Tripoli in Africa which was to take place the following year.
- (4) Ah'med 1st who reigned from 1603 to 1617.
- (5) Probably Samuel Pallache (see *Les Sources Inédites*. . . *I<sup>st</sup> série*, Pays-Bas, t. II, p. 231).
- (6) This letter (which came after another which did not reach its destination) was to be transmitted to Mûlay Zidân by the States General of the Netherlands (Resolution of 28 February 1614). On March 11<sup>th</sup>, Khalîl Pasha was informed of the good arrival of his letter (see *Sources Inédites* ..., *ibid.*, p. 231-232).
- (7) The original of this letter has not come to our knowledge.

## LETTRE DE KHALIL PACHA A MULAY ZIDAN

Chantal De La Veronne

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## LETTRE DE KHALIL PACHA A MULAY ZIDAN

Constantinople, 2 décembre 1613

Deziembre, 2, 1613.

Carta del vicer Halil Baxá (1), capitán del Mar, a Muley Seidán, rrey de Fez y Marruecos, escrita en Constantinopla, a 2 de deziembre de 1613.

Señor del honor, que sois grande de generación en generación, señor de la honrada nación, raíz del arbol de la ciencia, honra de la nación altíssima, porque sois de la guarda de Dios, governador de Fez y de Marruecos (2), señor Seydán, que Dios mantenga vuestra vida y grandeza hasta el fin del mundo.

Esta salud damos a Vra Alteza según lo que ella mereze y conviene a nuestra amistad ques sincera y tan clara como el sol, y embiando esta carta de amistad a Vra Alteza, lo que vuestro amigo de ánimo y de todo corazón os haze saver, es esto.

Como por la gracia de Dios, la grandeza de nuestro emperador, que Dios guarda, agora de nuevo ha hecho a mí vestro amigo, que continuamente dessea vestra grandeza, capitán baxá, y por tanto, con la gracia y ayuda de Dios, la primavera que viene, saldré a la mar fuera de aquí con la armada rreal (3). Dios que es incomparable, permita que sea con buena ventura y que bolvamos con felicidad.

Y después desto, sabrá Vra Alteza como antes de aora despachamos otra carta de amistad a Vra Alteza, avisando que Vra Alteza embiasse aquí a la Corte de nuestro emperador (que es ayuda de los rreyes y príncipes, y reparo de los honrados emperadores) un fiel embaxador suyo con una carta rreal y algún presente de cosas raras para hacer renobar y continuar nuestra amistad, y que este vuestro embaxador sería rezivido y despachado con el mayor honor del mundo.

Pero no haviendo tenido repuesta alguna de la carta de amistad, no sé por qué causa, y dudando que por ventura no la ayáis rezivido de ninguna manera, os escuso. Pero lo que conviene a la memoria de vuestros honrados padres y abuelos y a los otros vuestros altísimos predecesores, hará también Vra Altezza, embiando un embaxador a esta Corte para que el hilo de nuestra amistad no se corte. Y partiendo agora de aquí une persona confidente de los señores, estados y

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(1) Kais'ariyeli Khalil Pacha fut grand vizir sous les sultans ottomans Ah'med 1<sup>er</sup> et Murâd IV. En 1608 il était capitaine de la Mer ; remplacé en 1611, il le redevint en 1613. Il chercha à former avec la Hollande et le Maroc une confédération contre l'Espagne, mais ce projet n'aboutit pas.

(2) Le texte arabe (ou turc) devait porter les termes de *h'âkim* et *âmîr* ; pour la Porte, le chérif n'était pas un souverain, et le ton de cette lettre indique que Khalil Pacha considérait les Sa'diens comme des égaux.

(3) Allusion à l'expédition turque contre Malte et Tripoli d'Afrique qui devait avoir lieu l'année suivante.

governadores, los quales han hecho amistad con nuestro emperador (4) por mi medio, y en todo son amigos de Su Magestad, he querido embiar esta carta con este hombre fiel (5), para que tenga repuesta de la otra que e embiado a Vra Alteza. Y esperamos de Vra Alteza que, en reziviendo ésta, embiara un hombre fiel por embaxador en tiempo que yo, vuestro fiel amigo, estubiere fuera con la armada rreal para que, bolviendo a Constantinopla con la gracia de Dios, pueda procurar hazerle toda la honra que e prometido en la otra carta.

Y también e avisado a los señores y gobernadores de Hederlanda (6) que son amigos del grande emperador y nuestros, que en qualquiera cosa que tubieredes necesidad dellos, avisséis a Sus Altezas, que no faltarán en acudir a Vra Alteza en quanto se ofreziere por la amistad que tienen con nosotros.

La causa que me move a escrivir esta carta, no es otra sino ver que sois de nuestra fee, y por esto es conveniente que seáys amigo de nuestro emperador, como los otros señores y príncipes que tienen amistad con nosotros.

Y con esta paz y amor, suplico a Dios que la nación altíssima de Vra Alteza sea multiplicada (7).

El primer Halil, visir y capitán.

*Biblioteca Nacional de Madrid. — Manuscritos n° 2348, fol. 99 r° — 100 r° — Traduction espagnole.*

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(4) Ah'med 1<sup>er</sup> qui régna de 1603 à 1617.

(5) Probablement Samuel Pallache (voir *Les Sources Inédites* . . . 1<sup>ère</sup> série, Pays-Bas, t. II, p. 231).

(6) Cette lettre (qui venait après une autre non parvenue à destination) devait être transmise à Mûlay Zidân par les Etats Généraux des Pays-Bas (Résolution du 28 février 1614). Le 11 mars, Khalil Pacha était informé de la bonne arrivée de sa lettre (se reporter aux *Sources Inédites* . . . , *ibid.*, p. 231-232).

(7) L'original de cette lettre n'est pas parvenu à notre connaissance.